(ii) Enhancing quality and productivity levels of Indian tobacco and reducing production cost so as to make it more price competitive in international markets.

(iii) Monitoring and strict control of pesticide residues.

(iv) Aligning grading at farmers level in line with International grading standards.

(v) Allowing exports of tobacco to Russia through "Debt Repayment Route".

(vi) Sponsoring Delegations abroad and participation in International Trade Fairs.

(vii) Inviting Delegations, from Foreign Tobacco Monopolies to visit India to understand quality and cost competitiveness of Indian tobacco and arranging meetings with Indian Tobacco Exporters.

(viii) Undertaking market promotion for Indian tobacco through advertisements in international magazines and through distribution of product brochures.

Export of Wheat to Russia

294. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL:Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has offered to export wheat to Russia in the wake of surplus production in the last few years;

(b) if so, what are the details of export, including quality, price, quantity and terms and conditions of export; and

(c) what impact it will have on our domestic market?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The possibility of exporting wheat to the Russian Federation was taken up with the Russian authorities who, however, indicated that presently the Russian side has no requirement of import of food grade wheat.

(c) Does not arise.